

November 1, 1938 /3

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GERMANY /2  
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(Revised as of above  
date. As changes occur  
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September 1, 1939  
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GERMANY

Combat Estimate

## I. SYSTEM OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

### 1. Coordination of National Defense.

a. Armed Forces. The Armed Forces of the nation (Wehrmacht) consist of the Army (Heer), Navy (Kriegsmarine), and Air Force (Luftwaffe), each with its reserves, and function directly under the Fuehrer and Reich Chancellor Hitler.

b. Quasi-Military Forces. There are other uniformed bodies of a quasi-military nature such as the Nazi Party Army (S.A. and S.S. Troops and Automobile Corps), the Labor Service Corps, the National Socialist Flying Corps, the Technical Emergency Help Corps and the Security or State Police. Of these the Nazi Party Army functions directly under Hitler through leaders for each of the three corps, while the Labor Service and Technical Emergency Help Corps function under the Minister of the Interior. The Security or State Police function under the Minister of the Interior. Except for certain picked S.S. units, no party formations would be used in war as units.

c. Supreme Commander. Reichsfuehrer Hitler is the supreme commander of the German armed forces. The chain of command extends from him directly to the Commander of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, and to the Chief of the Defense Office. To assist the Supreme Commander, there has been appointed a Chief of Staff of the Supreme Command.

d. Defense Office. The Defense Office functions directly under Hitler. It deals with matters common to all three services and is responsible in time of peace for the coordination of all measures of defense. It includes the Industrial Mobilization Bureau and the Counter-Espionage Section.

It can be seen readily that Hitler's reorganization of February 4, 1938 by eliminating the War Ministry has greatly simplified the German organization for national defense.

## II. ARMY

### 2. Personnel.

#### a. Estimate of Strength of Components.

#### Organized Forces

Active Force (1) . . . . .	1,050,000
Fully trained Reservists (2) . . . . .	1,415,000

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(Organized Forces, continued)

Fully trained Landwehrs (2)	1,680,000
Partially trained Reservists (2)	2,670,000
Semi-military Formations:	
S.S. (Black Shirts)	100,000
S.A. (Brown Shirts)	1,000,000
National Socialist Motor Corps	300,000
Technical Emergency Help Corps	150,000
Labor Service Corps	225,000
Total organized forces (military and semi-military)	8,590,000

(1) This is the estimated strength of the Army as of September 1, 1939 and does not include 123,000 anti-aircraft troops, which are part of the Air Force.

(2) Includes Austrian and Sudeten reserves.

Additional Manpower (Unorganized). With the acquisition of Austria and Sudetenland, the total manpower of Great Germany is well over 10,000,000. In addition to the organized forces, it is estimated that another 2,000,000 are physically fit and available for army service.

As no German strength figures are ever published it must be realized that the above figures can only be a qualified estimate.

3. Organization.

a. Commander in Chief. At the head of the War Department is an army officer who is designated as Commander in Chief of the Army (Der Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres). He is appointed by Reichsfuehrer Hitler.

b. Army Department.

(1) Organization. The Army Department is organized as follows:  
Office of the Commander in Chief  
Personnel Office  
General Staff  
General Army Office  
Administrative Office  
Ordnance Office  
Inspector of Cadet Schools.

These subdivisions, with the exception of the first and second, correspond in general to the subdivisions within our War Department. The Commander in Chief is the actual head of the Army Department without occupying the status of a cabinet member. He commands the army in time of peace and in time of war would be the field commander. The Personnel Office is a grand scale combination of the Adjutant General, G-1 and the personnel offices of our branch chiefs.

(2) The General Staff of the Army. The General Staff of the Army is headed by a general officer who is designated as chief of the army general

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staff. It is organized into five sections that correspond generally to our G-2, G-3, G-4, a subdivision comprising a training section and a military history section, and an Inspectorate of Fortresses.

c. Standard Units. The German Army is organized throughout on the "Einheit" principle, that is, in so far as practicable, the component parts are independent standard units, capable of being attached or detached at will, without loss of tactical integrity and without administrative or supply difficulties. Sufficient weapons and manpower, coupled with the necessary supply and administrative means, are given each battalion, regiment and division, so that they can carry on their respective roles when detached. This gives flexibility without impairing efficiency.

Army units (trains excepted) are maintained constantly at war strength.

d. Territorial Organization.

(1) Military Areas. The territory of Germany (Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia not included) is divided into 15 areas for purposes of recruitment, replacement and general military administration. These military areas - Wehrkreis - correspond to our Corps Areas.

(2) Each Corps Area is divided into two or more mobilization areas. There appears to be no fixed rule as to either the territorial size or the population content of these areas. Their boundaries, however, coincide with the boundaries of their organic corps and army areas.

(3) Reports indicate that an army corps is organized in each of the Wehrkreise and a division organized in each of the mobilization areas.

(4) Details as to the command and administration of the various territorial divisions are lacking.

(5) Fortifications. German fortifications are subordinate to an inspector of fortifications, who is subordinate to the Chief of Staff.

e. Armies, Corps and Divisions. The army consists of 6 army groups, 18 army corps, 54 divisions (38 infantry divisions, of which 4 are motorized, 4 light divisions, 5 armored divisions, 3 mountain divisions and 3 fortress divisions), and 1 cavalry brigade.

(1) Army. The six Army Groups may be regarded as an Eastern Group (the 1st Army) which faces Poland; a Western Group (2d Army) which faces the entire western front of Switzerland, France, Belgium, and all of the strategically important parts of Holland; a Center Group of two armies (the 3d and 6th), the 3d which faces former Czechoslovakia and the 6th facing the North Sea; the 5th Group, embracing the territory of the former Austria, which faces Bohemia and Moravia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Italy and Switzerland; and finally the 4th Group, which, unlike the other five, has no territorial jurisdiction and whose headquarters are the supreme training authority for all motorized and mechanized units.

(2) Corps. Of the 18 corps headquarters, 15 have territorial jurisdiction and are composed of two or three infantry divisions, with certain ones having also armored divisions or light divisions as part of them. The three corps headquarters, with no territorial jurisdiction, have tactical but not administrative control over the motorized and mechanized divisions. These headquarters are subordinated tactically to the 4th Army Group.



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Definite information is lacking as to the composition of corps troops, though many new corps units have been identified.

Germany does not possess a stereotype corps organization. A corps consists of a Headquarters, a Signal Battalion and allotted units, depending on the requirements of the situation.

Corps Staff. There are three sections in the Corps Staff, i.e., Sections I, II, and III.

Section I is the General Staff Section and consists of the following subsections:

Chief of Staff  
Ia functions as our G-3  
Ib functions as our G-4  
Ic functions as our G-2

Section II is the administrative section and handles all matters which are handled by our G-1 and Adjutant General. There are no general staff officers in this section.

Section III is the supply section. There are no general staff officers in this section.

The staff of every German command unit is based on the principle of reducing to a minimum the number of officers and men at headquarters.

(3) Divisions. The following shows the organization of the infantry, armored, light and mountain divisions and of the cavalry brigade.

(a) Infantry Division.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Estimated Strength (officers and men)</u>
Division Headquarters . . . . .	161
Signal Battalion . . . . .	407
Engineer Battalion . . . . .	974
Antitank Battalion . . . . .	543
3 Infantry Regiments . . . . .	8,829
Artillery (1 Light Regt. and 1 Medium Bn.) . . .	3,057
Trains (lacking in peace) . . . . .	1,253
Total war strength . . . . .	15,224

The division headquarters consists of the division commander, the staff and division headquarters company. The division staff is organized as follows:

Section I is the operations section and consists of three general staff officers and two staff officer assistants (not general staff officers). The three general staff officers of this section perform the duties of our Chief of Staff and G-3, G-4, G-2.

Section II is the administrative and personnel section. It consists of two officers (not general staff) who perform the combined duties of our G-1 and Adjutant General.

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Section III is the supply section. It consists of the chief of section and six assistants, none of whom are general staff officers.

The headquarters company furnishes the necessary enlisted assistants to all staff sections for the performance of clerical, mess, orderly and courier duties.

Armament. As organized at present the German infantry division is equipped with the following supporting weapons:

<u>Weapon</u>	<u>No. in Div.</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
37 mm. Antitank Guns	72	12 per Inf. Regt. - 36 in Div. Antitank Battalion.
75 mm. Infantry Howitzers	18	6 per Inf. Regt.
150 mm. Infantry Howitzers	6	2 per Inf. Regt.
50 mm. Light Mortar	81	3 per Rifle Company.
81 mm. Heavy Mortar	54	6 per Heavy Weapon Company of the Infantry Battalion.
105 mm. Light Field Howitzer	36	Light Field Art. Regt.
105 mm. Guns	4	Medium Field Art. Bn.
150 mm. Medium Howitzer	8	Medium Field Art. Bn.

In the peacetime division, service trains and medical troops are lacking.

The German Army is not bound by rigid tables of organization and each year brings changes not only in the composition of the division as a whole, but in the organization and weapons of basic units. No two infantry divisions are exactly alike.

(b) The Armored Division. The German Armored (Panzer) Division as constituted at present consists of:

- (1) A Tank Brigade (with from 425 to 475 tanks) organized into two regiments of two battalions each;
- (2) A Rifle (Schutzen) Brigade with the following sub-units:

- 1 Motorized Rifle Regiment of two battalions
- 1 Motorcycle Battalion
- 1 Antitank Battalion
- 1 Motorized Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Motorized Artillery Regiment of  
105 mm. howitzers
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Signal Battalion

The total strength of the division is estimated to be 11,000 officers and men, with 3,000 motor vehicles.

The latest organization used in problems at the Kriegsakademie includes, in addition, an antiaircraft battalion and an air observation squadron.

The armored division is designed to function as a unit or as two

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separate brigades, one of tanks and the other of the combined supporting arms.

(c) The Light Division. The Light Mechanized Division is an outgrowth of the former 1st Light Brigade, an experimental mechanized cavalry unit. Its strength and organization are as follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Strength</u>
Division Headquarters	207
Signal Battalion Mot.	381
Engineer Battalion Mot.	739
Antitank Battalion	698
Motorized Reconnaissance Regt.	1,654
2 Motorized Infantry Regts. of 2 Bns.	4,211
Motorized Artillery Regt.	1,299
Light Tank Battalion	786
Medical	387
Train	928
Total	11,290

The armament includes 108 tanks and 96 armored cars. Its primary mission is reconnaissance in force or the execution of delaying actions and filling gaps.

(d) The Mountain Division. Three of these divisions have been formed during the past year and are believed to have a strength of about 14,000 men. The organization is similar to the infantry division except that the artillery is armed with 75 mm. pack howitzers.

(e) The Fortress Division. Fortress or Grenz Divisions have been organized for the purpose of manning the permanent fortifications. Little is known of the details of organization. Three divisions have been identified.

(f) Cavalry Brigade. The Cavalry Division as such has been abolished. Out of a total of 16 regiments of cavalry in the German Army only two are organized for normal use and form the 1st Cavalry Brigade stationed in East Prussia. The remaining 14 regiments are organized for use as corps or division reconnaissance units.

The 1st Cavalry Brigade consists of:

Brigade Hq. and Signal Platoon  
2 Reiter Regiments  
1 Horse Artillery Battalion

A bicycle battalion may be attached to the brigade when needed.

e. Combatant Branches.

(1) Infantry.

(a) The Regiment.

Regimental Headquarters  
1 Signal Platoon  
1 Mounted Platoon  
1 Antitank Company (12 - 37 mm. Guns)

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1 Howitzer Company (6 - 75 mm. and 2 - 150 mm.)  
Train (horse-drawn light column)  
3 Infantry Battalions, each consisting of battalion  
headquarters, including a signal platoon, 3 rifle  
companies and 1 machine gun company.

(b) The Regimental Staff consists of:

Regimental Commander  
Adjutant  
Ordnanz Officer (Assistant to Adjutant)  
Surgeon  
2 Veterinary officers  
Paymaster (Beamter)\*

\* A Beamter official is one who has the rank of an officer but cannot  
exercise command functions.

Arms Master (Beamter) (Functions similar to our  
Ordnance Officer and Quartermaster)  
Signal Officer (commands Signal Platoon)  
Mounted platoon leader (a lieutenant who commands  
mounted platoon).

Total strength of the regiment is about 2,900 officers  
and men.

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- (c) The Battalion Staff consists of:  
Adjutant  
Signal Officer (commands the Signal Section)  
Supply Officer (who commands the rear echelon)  
There are two medical officers with the battalion.
- (d) The Schuetzen Regiment (with the Armored Division):  
Commander and staff  
Signal Platoon  
Light Column  
2 Battalions, each battalion consisting of 2 schuetzen (motorized infantry) companies, 1 motorcycle company, 1 machine gun company, and 1 heavy company, with a total personnel strength of about 2,050.

- (e) The Tank Regiment:  
Staff  
Signal Platoon  
Light Tank Platoon  
Motor Repair Company  
Light Columns  
2 Battalions, each of 4 companies consisting of 3 Light and 1 Medium Tank Company. Total strength of a regiment 1,200 men and 207 tanks.

(2) Field Artillery. Organically the divisional artillery consists of an artillery commander and staff, one regiment of three battalions of 105 mm. light field howitzers, horse-drawn, one medium battalion consisting of two batteries of 150 mm. howitzers and one battery of 105 mm. guns, horse-drawn, and an observation battalion, motorized. The strength of the light regiment is 2,262 officers and men, and of the medium battalion, 899.

Due to the flexibility of the German organization, however, the amount of artillery with the division at any given time will depend on the tactical situation. German tables of organization serve only as a guide and not as a law which must be rigidly adhered to.

Organized for combat, the observation battalion and the organic and reinforcing medium artillery are normally kept under the direct control of the division artillery commander. Reinforcing light battalions are attached to the light regiment and one or more light battalions are placed in direct support of each infantry regiment in the line.

The Observation Battalion consists of a Sound Ranging Battery, a Flash Ranging Battery and a Survey Battery, strength 619.

In addition to the artillery with the division, the Germans possess mountain artillery and are constantly increasing the amount of medium motorized corps and heavy artillery.

(3) Cavalry.

(a) Germany has two distinct types of cavalry regiments, each with a title of its own. The cavalry regiments that approximate in organization and purpose American cavalry are known as "Reiter" regiments. They are two in number - stationed in East Prussia and form, with certain auxiliary units the 1st Cavalry Brigade. The organization of each of these regiments is as follows:

- 1 Staff Troop (includes Signal Platoon, Antitank Platoon, Armored Car Platoon and Engineer Platoon)



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4 Reiter Troops  
1 Machine Gun Troop and  
Cavalry Cannon Platoon  
Total strength, 1,234 officers and men.

(b) The other 14 existing cavalry regiments are known as "Kavallerie" regiments but the term reconnaissance regiment better describes their mission. Their organization is quite unlike that of our cavalry. They are organized so as to be divisible and to set up in time of war four divisional reconnaissance battalions for attachment to corps or divisions.

The organization of the Kavallerie regiments in general is as follows:

1 Battalion - 4 saber squadrons  
1 Battalion - 4 bicycle squadrons  
1 Motorized squadron consisting of:  
1 Antitank platoon  
3 - 37 mm. Antitank guns  
1 Cavalry Cannon platoon  
2 - 75 mm. Infantry howitzers (motorized)  
1 Armored Car platoon  
1 Engineer platoon  
1 Signal squadron

The estimated total strength in horses is 1,100; bicycles, 600; and motor vehicles, between 50 and 100.

Total strength, officers and men, 2,050.

General: The German cavalry regiment is a corps unit. It is not automatically split up among the infantry divisions of the corps on the outbreak of war but attached and detached by the corps commander as the situation requires.

(c) The German motorized reconnaissance battalion is the German version of our motorized cavalry unit. It is a pure and simple reconnaissance unit and contains no tanks as does our cavalry unit.

At present there are believed to be at least 20 motorized reconnaissance battalions. These battalions are an organic part of the armored and light divisions, and in addition it is believed one will be formed for each corps.

Organization:

Commander and Staff  
Signal Platoon  
2 companies of armored cars  
1 motorcycle company  
1 heavy company  
1 light column

Total strength, 31 officers, 785 men.

(4) Motorized Machine Gun Battalions. Three types of motorized machine gun battalions exist in the German Army. All may be classed as G.H.Q. troops. They are:

(a) The Motorized Machine Gun Battalion, equipped with the M.G. 34 and organized into -

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Battalion Headquarters, Signal Platoon,  
M. G. Platoon

3 Motorized M. G. Companies  
1 Motorized AA-AT Company

The strength of the battalion is 25 officers, 1,022 men, 336 motor vehicles, 54 M. G.'s 34, and 20 mm. M. G.'s.

Eleven of these battalions have been identified.

The principal missions of the Motorized Machine Gun Battalion are:

1. Support of frontier defense in early stages of war;
2. As a highly mobile G.H.Q. reserve;
3. In conjunction with engineer units to form barrier detachments to hold a gap in the line or to protect the flank of an army.

(b) The Motorized Antitank-Antiaircraft Machine Gun Battalion is organized into:

Battalion Headquarters and Signal Platoon  
3 Antitank-Antiaircraft Companies

The strength of the battalion is estimated to be 18 officers, 632 men, 194 motor vehicles and 36 - 20 mm. AT-AA M.G.'s.

It is believed that upon taking the field this type of unit would be attached to the infantry divisions. Three battalions have been identified.

(c) The Fortress Machine Gun Battalion. No definite information is available on the organization or strength of this type of unit. Two battalions have been identified.

(5) Antitank Battalion. In each German division there is included organically an antitank battalion. This battalion operates directly under control of the division commander. There is also in each infantry and cavalry regiment one antitank company.

The battalion consists of a commander, staff, three gun companies and a train. The strength of the battalion is 618, with 36 - 37 mm. antitank guns.

Forty-one antitank battalions have been identified.

(6) Engineers. The Engineer component of the German infantry division is organized as a battalion consisting of:

Battalion Headquarters (small staff, signal platoon, band)

3 Combat Companies

Supply Train (light pioneer train)

Bridge Train

23 officers and 820 men.

In addition there are Corps Engineer, Fortress Engineer and Railway Engineer battalions.

(7) Signal Troops. The divisional communication unit is the Signal Battalion organized into:

Battalion Headquarters, motorized  
1 Telephone Company, motorized (one section horse-drawn)

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1 Radio Company, motorized  
Light Column  
Strength about 400.

There are also Corps and Army Signal Battalions.

In addition to the Division Signal Battalion, each regiment and battalion has a signal platoon.

f. Noncombatant Forces.

(1) Supply Service.

(a) The control and organization of the service of supply within the division is the function of Section III of the division staff. The general staff control of this section rests with 1b of the staff, who corresponds to G-4 in the American division. On the division staff and operating under 1b are the commander of the ration section and the commander of the division trains. Each of these officers has a staff of his own.

The commander of the ration section is responsible for Class I supplies. Under him operate the bakery company and the slaughter platoon.

The commander of the division trains is responsible for the organization of the unit baggage trains in the division column, commands the assembled trains and releases them to their units at the appropriate time. He is responsible for all supply other than Class I supplies.

The division trains consist of the following:

Division Supply Company  
8 (30-ton) Motor Transport Columns  
1 Light Fuel Column  
1 Heavy Fuel Column  
1 Motor Repair Shop  
1 Bakery Company  
1 Slaughter Platoon

Each company, troop or battery has its own supply organization known as the "tross." Following the "Einheit" principle, all "tross" are similar with only a slight difference between motorized and horse-drawn units.

The "tross" consists of:

Combat Train  
Ration Train  
Baggage Train

Forward of railhead supplies are forwarded by three methods:

1. Supply columns (divisional)
2. Light columns (regimental or battalion)
3. Baggage columns.

(2) General Data.

(a) While the impetus of supply is from rear to front, the mechanics of supply is from front to rear.

(b) All supply columns are of either 30-ton or 60-ton capacity and are complete operating units. Their communication and command vehicles consist of light passenger cars and motorcycles while cargo vehicles are

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mainly  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -ton trucks. (There are a few 3-ton trucks for special use.)

(c) In general the divisional columns (supply) operate under division control between railheads and division distributing points.

The light columns (regimental or battalion) operate under their unit commander between the division ammunition distributing point and the battalions or batteries. These columns correspond to our field trains.

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The baggage columns which correspond to our combat trains operate as follows: The ration section operates between division distributing points and companies, batteries, etc. The battle section remains with its section in combat and transports that baggage necessary in combat, such as ammunition, intrenching tools, etc. The pack baggage section marches in rear of the march columns and transports that part of the pack and organizational equipment not immediately necessary in combat.

(3) Medical Service. The German medical service of the active army is a peace time frame upon which in war reserve units made up from the civilian medical profession will be organized.

Those activities in the German Army which correspond to our medical service are called the Sanitary Service. This service consists of three activities:

Health Service

Sick Service

Replacement Examination Service.

The Health Service is responsible for maintaining the health of the command and all measures for the prevention of sickness or injury.

The Sick Service is responsible for the prompt cure and return to duty of the sick and wounded.

The Replacement Examination Service is responsible for the medical examination and records of all men drafted for the military service.

All of these services are operated by medical personnel.

The German Army has no dental service in peace time.

The veterinary service is a separate service and is not under the control of the Medical Service.

The Medical Battalion of the Division consists of:

1 Motor Ambulance Platoon

1 Sanitary Company

1 Field Hospital (strength about 120).

Estimated strength about 400 officers and men.

This battalion exists only in cadre form in time of peace.

Reserves are from civil and military hospitals.

(4) Chemical Warfare Service. The Gas Defense and Smoke Inspection is responsible for the coordination of all technical matters pertaining to gas and smoke for the German Army.

The chemical troops form a special arm in the German Army.

The Nebel (fog) battalion is organized as follows:

Headquarters and staff platoon

Signal platoon

3 Nebel companies

Train.

Each Nebel company consists of three platoons, two of which are combat platoons and one is a degassing platoon. Each combat and degassing platoon consists of 4 groups, each group consisting of one NCO and eight men. The total strength of the company is 4 officers and 170 enlisted men. The total strength of the battalion is approximately 600 men.

Four fog or Nebel battalions have been identified but the veil of secrecy which covers all operations of the German chemical service makes accurate estimates almost impossible.



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The baggage columns which correspond to our combat trains operate as follows: The ration section operates between division distributing points and companies, batteries, etc. The battle section remains with its section in combat and transports that baggage necessary in combat, such as ammunition, intrenching tools, etc. The pack baggage section marches in rear of the march columns and transports that part of the pack and organizational equipment not immediately necessary in combat.

(3) Medical Service. The German medical service of the active army is a peace time frame upon which in war reserve units made up from the civilian medical profession will be organized.

Those activities in the German Army which correspond to our medical service are called the Sanitary Service. This service consists of three activities:

Health Service

Sick Service

Replacement Examination Service.

The Health Service is responsible for maintaining the health of the command and all measures for the prevention of sickness or injury.

The Sick Service is responsible for the prompt cure and return to duty of the sick and wounded.

The Replacement Examination Service is responsible for the medical examination and records of all men drafted for the military service. All of these services are operated by medical personnel.

The German Army has no dental service in peace time.

The veterinary service is a separate service and is not under the control of the Medical Service.

The Medical Battalion of the Division consists of:

1 Motor Ambulance Platoon

1 Sanitary Company

1 Field Hospital (strength about 120).

Estimated strength about 400 officers and men.

This battalion exists only in cadre form in time of peace.

Reserves are from civil and military hospitals.

(4) Chemical Warfare Service. The Gas Defense and Smoke Inspection is responsible for the coordination of all technical matters pertaining to gas and smoke for the German Army.

The chemical troops form a special arm in the German Army.

The Nebel (fog) battalion is organized as follows:

Headquarters and staff platoon

Signal platoon

3 Nebel companies

Train.

Each Nebel company consists of three platoons, two of which are combat platoons and one is a degassing platoon. Each combat and degassing platoon consists of 4 groups, each group consisting of one NCO and eight men. The total strength of the company is 4 officers and 170 enlisted men. The total strength of the battalion is approximately 600 men.

Four fog or Nebel battalions have been identified but the veil of secrecy which covers all operations of the German chemical service makes accurate estimates almost impossible.



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There is a chemical warfare school at Berlin in which all gas officers and N.C.O.'s are required to take courses. These courses range from two weeks to one year.

G. Second Line Forces.

(1) The German Army inactive forces are subdivided into:

(a) Reserve. All officers and soldiers who have been let out of the active force and who are not yet 36 years of age.

(b) Replacement Reserve. All men capable of bearing arms who have not served in the active force and who are not yet 36 years old.

(c) Landwehr. All men capable of bearing arms between the ages of 36 and 45 years.

(d) Landsturm. All men capable of bearing arms, over 45 years of age (46 to 55).

Definite information is lacking as to how these inactive forces will be organized and the progress of their organization.

(2) State or Security Police. These forces are scattered throughout the Reich in the performance of their police functions. Upon mobilization, the military police units required by the various echelons of the German army are furnished by the state police. In peacetime no military police are included in the organization of the army.

(3) Nazi Party Troops. No estimate of the German military strength would be complete without consideration of the organized semi-military forces.

The S. S. (known variously as Schutz-Staffel, Black Shirts, or the Corps d'Elite) is the most powerful and closely knit element of the Nazi Party. It is organized territorially into 17 districts. In these districts are 200,000 men organized into approximately 30 brigades. In estimating the value of the S. S. as a military force it is necessary to differentiate sharply between the Verfuigungs-Truppen and the ordinary S. S. These two components of the S. S. are organized differently, differ in discipline, armament, and training, and from a military standpoint have two quite different ultimate values. The V-T Corps is a long-service, paid body of party troops organized exactly as similar units in the German army. The term of service is for four years and the pay is similar to that of the army. These troops, amounting in all to 40,000, are fully armed, equipped, and well trained. This military force is under full S. S. control in time of peace but on mobilization its regiments and battalions pass automatically under Army jurisdiction. In the ordinary S. S. the service is voluntary and the members serve without pay. Each member generally devotes one or two nights a week to the S. S. drill and service.

The S. A. (Sturm Abteilung, Storm Battalions, or the Brown Shirts) is also organized territorially into 25 districts, with a strength of about 1,500,000 members. On January 19, 1939, Hitler decreed that the S. A. should be incorporated into the military reserve system of the German army and that its organizations should take over in peace the military refresher training of all reservists released by the armed forces. This revolutionary change completely changed the role of the S. A. and saved it from approaching oblivion.

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In order to improve the riding training of cavalry recruits, a special section of the S. A. has been formed called the National Socialist Cavalry Corps.

The Technische Nothilfe or the Technical Emergency Help Corps, strength believed to be about 150,000, has the purpose of furnishing emergency technical help for the operation of industries or utilities vital to the public interests. It is composed of technical experts and workers of sworn loyalty, is uniformed, and has a military form of organization.

The N. S. K. K. (National Socialist Motor Corps), of 140,000 members, must be considered as a pool of motor drivers and mechanics.

(4) The Arbeitsdienst, or Labor Service Corps -- present strength about 225,000 -- corresponds in many respects to our civilian conservation corps. The excellent, partially trained human material in this corps would be used individually to replace losses suffered by the army, it is believed.

4. Equipment.

a. Individual.

(1) Infantry. Subordinate officers and all enlisted men are armed with rifle and bayonet. Officers and noncommissioned officers have automatic pistols and all enlisted men carry hand grenades.

Rifle - Mauser, Cal. 7.9 mm., model 1898.

Bayonet - knife type.

Automatic Pistol - Cal. 9 mm.

Hand Grenade - either ovoid or potato masher type.

(2) Artillery. All officers and noncommissioned officers are armed with the automatic pistol. All enlisted men are armed with the carbine and carry hand grenades. All drivers and mounted men have sabers.

Saber - Curved blade type; same as cavalry saber.

(3) Cavalry. Officers are armed with the saber and automatic pistol. All enlisted men are armed with the carbine (with bayonet), saber, and hand grenades.

Saber - Curved blade type.

(4) Engineers. Officers and enlisted men of the pioneer companies are armed with the rifle, bayonet, and hand grenades.

(5) Police. The individual armament of the State or Security Police consists of:

The automatic pistol, carbine and bayonet, and sword.

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(6) General. German soldiers of all units are armed either with the carbine or rifle. In the German Army the infantry rifle and the carbine of the cavalry and field artillery are identical weapons.

b. Organizational.

(1) Machine Gun 34, Cal. 7.9 mm., employed both as a light and heavy machine gun.

(2) Infantry Mortars - Light, Cal. 50 mm.; Heavy, Cal. 81 mm.

(3) Infantry Howitzers - Light, Cal. 75 mm.; Heavy, Cal. 150 mm.

(4) Antitank Gun - 37 mm. and 47 mm. (new development). Also a 20 mm. antitank and antiaircraft machine gun.

(5) Field Artillery:

Guns - Cal. 105 mm., 150 mm. and 240 mm.

Howitzers - Cal. 105 mm., 150 mm. and 210 mm.

Mortars - Cal. 210 mm.

(6) Fighting Vehicles:

Armored cars - Light and heavy.

Tanks - Light: Weight approximately 6-8 tons; armament two M.G.'s, one of which in some cases is a 20 mm. armor piercing weapon. Crew, 2 or 3 men. Speed, 20-35 m.p.h. cross country on level ground. \*

\* Most of the German tanks fall in this category.

Tanks - Medium: Weight 14-19 tons; armament 1 - 37 mm. cannon and 3 M.G.'s or 1 - 75 mm. cannon and 1 M.G.; Crew, 5 men; speed, 20-25 m.p.h.

At this time the German Army does not contemplate the organization of any heavy tank units.

Troop Carriers - Light cross country cars and trucks and motorcycles.

(7) Chemical Warfare.

For smoke - Portable and non-portable generators, smoke boxes and smoke candles.

For gas - Details unknown but believed that such equipment is on hand.

(8) Signal. Each division signal battalion has sufficient equipment to establish and maintain telephone and radio communication down to, but not including, regimental headquarters. The regimental and battalion signal detachments have sufficient radio and telephone equipment to maintain communication with their subordinate units.

(9) Supply Vehicles. The supply vehicles are both types: animal drawn and motor. The motor vehicles are 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  and 3-ton trucks.

5. Training, Efficiency, and Morale.

a. Training.

(1) Military Schools. The following military schools are known to be in existence:

Cadet Schools at Potsdam, Dresden, Munich, Hanover and Vienna  
Infantry School at Doberitz



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Cavalry School at Sennelager near Paderborn - temporary  
Signal School at Halle  
Artillery School at Juterborg  
Veterinary School at Hanover  
Cavalry Riding School at Krampnitz (near Berlin)  
Engineer Schools at Klausdorf, Karlshorst and Munich  
Ordnance School at Berlin  
Chemical Warfare School at Berlin  
Medical School at Berlin  
Transport School at Hanover  
Motorized Combat School at Wunsdorf  
Sport School at Wunsdorf  
General Staff College (Kriegsakademie) at Berlin  
College of the Armed Forces (Wehrmachtsakademie) at Berlin  
Noncommissioned Officer Schools at Potsdam, Sigmaringen  
and Frankenstein.

(2) Nature and Objective of Training for Officers.

(a) Officer Replacements. Officer candidates for the army are chosen as follows:

1. From men who are enlisted in the army as Fahnenjunker cadets. A young man desiring a commission in the army applies to a regimental commander for permission to enlist as an officer candidate. The applicant is then enlisted as such, provided the regimental commander's investigation shows that he possesses the required qualifications in education (about 2 years of college), breeding, and moral character and that he passes successfully the prescribed physical and psychological examinations. Having been enlisted as an officer candidate, he is given special training for about two years and three months and at the end of that time, provided he has met all tests successfully, he is commissioned as an ensign. This training is divided into four phases as follows:

1st Phase. A year's period as an enlisted man in the regiment in which he enlists. He performs the regular duties of an enlisted man except that he is pushed along faster than the ordinary recruit and is required to perform extra work beyond regular hours. He is usually promoted to M.C.O. grade after from five to seven months' service.

2nd Phase. A nine months' course in one of the Officer Candidates Schools (Kriegsschulen). Here he receives his basic theoretical military training. The course given him is essentially military as no general educational subjects are included in the curriculum except voluntary courses in foreign languages.

3rd Phase. A three months' course at the special service school of the candidate's arm or branch of the service. Here he is given a practical course with the object of turning him out as a qualified platoon commander.

4th Phase. A three months' probational period as a Senior Cadet (Oberfahnrich) in his regiment. At the conclusion of this period he is commissioned as an ensign provided he is accepted.

It is expected that about 95 per cent of the officer replacements will be obtained by the method described above.

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2. Other Methods of Becoming a Regular Officer.

a. Soldiers who display officer qualifications if approved by the regimental commander and the Commander in Chief of the Army may become Fahnenjunker. As Fahnenjunker they follow the same course of training as any others.

b. Reserve Officers. Regimental commanders may recommend for permanent commission certain reserve officers who are attached to the unit for training. If approved by the corps area commander, the candidate undergoes a four weeks' training period with the unit which submits the application. If he is found satisfactory he is placed on duty with the unit on probation for a year. If his work during this period is satisfactory he receives his permanent commission.

c. Commissions for N.C.O.'s. N.C.O.'s are also selected for commission by their regimental commanders. If his recommendations are approved by higher authority the N.C.O.'s are commissioned and sent to the branch schools for a training course.

It is estimated that about 2,300 of these officer candidates are in training at this time, with the number increasing as new Kriegsschulen are opened. The ages of the officer candidates, now in training, are between 18 and 22 years.

(b) Special Service Schools. In addition to the three months' course for officer candidates, these schools are being used at this time for special weapons courses for junior officers, refresher courses for battalion and regimental commanders, special courses for reactivated officers, and training for landwehr and ergänzungs units.

(c) General Staff Training. Officers of the grade of First Lieutenant and Captain, after eight years' service with troops of the combat arms, are eligible for selection for general staff training. The selection is made very carefully upon the basis of character, leadership, psychological aptitude, education, and social background. Officers selected are sent to the General Staff School at Berlin. (Careful consideration of the above factors and the results of a complete examination.)

(d) General Staff School (Kriegsakademie). This institution corresponds in general to our Command and General Staff School. The course is two years in length. The curriculum is concerned with the infantry regiment until March 1 of the first year, with the infantry division until about December 20 of the second year, and with the tank division, cavalry division and army corps the rest of the year. There are six school days per week.

Having completed the training at this school, certain of the graduates are assigned to general staff duty in the Ministry of War, and with the corps and divisions of the army. The remaining graduates are sent back to duty with troops. Duty with the General Staff is temporary. After a three or four year tour of duty on the General Staff, an officer is returned to duty with combat troops for one or two years, after which he may be again assigned to general staff duty. General Staff duty, particularly that with the War Ministry, carries with it great prestige and preference for promotion.

(e) The Armed Forces College (Wehrmachtsakademie) is located in Berlin. The announced purposes of the college are:



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1. To provide a common educational institution for the study of national defense problems by higher officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force;

2. To study the problems of the unity of the Army and the nation in war. In its development the new British Imperial Defense College will probably serve as the model.

It has been learned that high government officials from all Ministries will be enrolled in the college on the same basis as officers of the armed forces.

(3) Nature and Objective of Training for Men. The men of the professional cadre are enlisted for long service and, therefore, are given a thorough and comprehensive training. The noncommissioned officers, specialists, and technicians comprise this cadre. There are specialists' schools for their training. It was the practice in the Reichswehr, and is probably continued in the present army, to detail noncommissioned officers and specially qualified men for short tours of duty with other branches of the service for training purposes.

For the conscript, the basic training is that of the school of the infantry soldier, with and without arms, and is the same for all branches. The recruit training is of three months' duration and embraces discipline, physical training, close and extended order drill, marching with and without the pack, care and use of rifle, pistol, and of the light and heavy machine guns. At the end of this three months' period, he takes up regular duties in the company, troop, battery, etc., and is taught the duties of a soldier of his arm of the service, the objective of the training being to make him as proficient as possible in his particular arm of the service as his period of active service will permit.

(4) Unit and Combined Training.

(a) Unit and organizational training are conducted at the stations of the various units during the winter in preparation for field training at the maneuver areas during the open months. In the infantry and cavalry, the group of from 10 to 14 men built around the light machine gun is the basic training and combat unit. At the maneuver areas, training is progressive, starting with field exercises for the group and carried on through the various units of organization to culminate in the late summer or early fall with divisional maneuvers or in some cases with one or more corps maneuvers.

(b) Maneuvers for divisions and larger units are held annually. The one held in the fall of 1938 was on a grand scale -- the largest held in peace time in the Reich. It was reported that a total of about 1,300,000 men of all branches of the military services participated, but not all at the same time.

(c) During the field training, all enlisted men as well as officers are required to be thoroughly conversant with the objective exercises and with the situation of the moment. Three principles are emphasized in these field exercises:

1. The value of maneuver and flanking action;
2. The importance of wide deployments;
3. The necessity for speedy and deep organization of the ground as soon as the advance of the unit in combat is stopped.



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(5) Training of Reserves.

(a) The Inactive Forces.

1. Reserve Officers. Candidates for reserve commission are called for three reserve drills before being commissioned. The first of these comes during the training year following their active service years and is of six weeks' duration; the second comes during the third reserve year and is of four weeks' duration; the third takes place during the fourth or fifth reserve year and is of six weeks' duration. Following these training periods, the successful candidate is commissioned in the reserves and pledges himself to take two additional reserve exercises. These two exercises after commission are also required of reserve officers appointed from other sources.

2. Men. It is estimated that Germany has trained approximately 800,000 to 1,000,000 men of the classes from 1909 to 1913 in units known as *erganzung* battalions. This training lasts about 8 weeks. These battalions are a part of the line infantry regiments as 4th battalions. There are similar assignments of *erganzung* units as artillery batteries, antitank companies, pioneer companies and signal companies. It is believed that the men trained in these units will be used also to complete the trains and rear area establishments of the German Army in war.

(b) Nazi Party Army. Each of the components of this force has schools for the political and military education of its officers. In addition the Automobile Corps has a motor school at Doberitz where certain of the officers and men of the corps receive technical training in motor transport.

In general, the training of these troops may be compared with that of our National Guard, as they follow the training doctrines of the German Army much as our National Guard follows the training doctrines of our Regular Army. The Nazi forces are not equipped to the extent that our National Guard is, however. Their military training stresses discipline, marching with and without pack, physical training, target practice, and field maneuvers. In addition to their military training, they receive a great deal of training in the Nazi political philosophy and are used extensively by the Party for political purposes. The S. A. is responsible for the refresher training of all German reservists.

(c) The Technical Emergency Help Corps. These troops are trained in discipline and the technical work of their particular unit.

(d) The Labor Service Corps. This force is made up of the permanent cadre and the conscript cadre. For the training of the permanent cadre and for the candidates for its replacements, there is a system of schools.

The term of conscript service in the corps is six months and comes during the conscript year immediately preceding the one during which the young man is due for his active military service. This corps comprises in reality a premilitary training body. It has the combined function and training of our C. C. Corps and C. M. T. Camps. So far as is known, no extensive training with arms is given its members but other kinds of military training, such as marching, orientation, scouting, patrolling, and close and extended order drill, are given.

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b. System of Promotion for Officers. The following is the system which was used by the Reichswehr and, so far as known, is still in force in the new army. Promotion is by seniority in accordance with a single promotion list, except from 1st Lieutenant to Captain, and Captain to Major. In these two cases, promotion may be by selection upon the recommendation of the regimental or other comparable commanders, subject to the restriction, however, that no officer shall be promoted more than two and one half years earlier than he would have been promoted by seniority. Other exceptions to promotion by seniority are from Colonel to general officer and within the grade of general officer, all of which are by selection.

In the small Reichswehr, where promotion would otherwise have been very slow, the War Department each year increased the natural attrition (deaths, retirement for age, etc.) by forcing the retirement of additional officers in every grade, thereby accelerating the rate of promotion. Due to the expansion now under way, this practice is undoubtedly suspended for the time being. In fact, it is known that many officers of active age who were retired under this practice have been recalled for active service.

c. Efficiency. The efficiency of the present army is very high. Germany has a fine, well equipped army, the equal of any in Europe. The shortage of first class junior officers is being rapidly corrected.

d. Morale. The morale, of not only the armed forces but of the German public as well, is very high at this time due not only to the overwhelming success of German arms in Poland but also to Hitler's renunciation of the Military, Naval, and Air Clauses of the Treaty of Versailles, the reintroduction of universal service, the Anschluss with Austria, the bringing of the Sudeten Germans into the Reich and, above all, the realization that Germany once more is a great world power.

#### 6. Mobilization Plan.

##### a. Method of Recruitment.

###### (1) Officers.

Active officers in peace are recruited as heretofore explained. Reserve officers are carefully selected. Candidates for reserve commission must fulfill the basic requirements of intelligence, personality, living (social) standard equal to the requirements of active officers, means sufficient to assure a proper living standard, and proof that self and wife are of Aryan origin. They are drawn from the following sources:

1. Former active and reserve officers of the old Imperial Army, if qualified.

2. Former officers of the Reichswehr, if qualified.

3. Former noncommissioned officers of at least 12 years' service who have left or leave the army and who are not over 45 years of age.

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(These must be accepted before appointment by the officer corps of the unit with which they are trained.)

4. Those who have completed their active service duty and are discharged as an extra lance corporal and with the recommendation for appointment as candidate for commission as reserve officer.

5. Men between 25 and 35 years of age who have not been called up for active service duty but who have received recommendations for appointment as candidates for reserve commission after having performed two training exercises (of two months' duration each) with reserve units.

Those in categories 1 and 2 above may be commissioned immediately upon qualification. What these qualifications are is not definitely known but it may be assumed that they consist of age, physical condition, former record with the armed forces, and the general requirements set forth above.

Those in category 3 above are commissioned after one reserve training exercise provided they are elected by the officer corps of the unit with which they are trained and are otherwise satisfactory.

Those in categories 4 and 5 above may be commissioned after three reserve drill periods, the last of which is held during the fourth or fifth reserve year.

All reserve officers upon being commissioned pledge themselves to two reserve exercises after being commissioned.

(2) Men. The National Defense Law of May 21, 1935 and of July 13, 1938, fix the military service obligation from the completed 18th year until the 31st of March of the 45th year of age. This act further provides that in case of war or national emergency, the Minister of War may extend the military obligation to include men over 45 years of age. And, finally, it provides that in time of war, every German man and every German woman is obligated to render service to his country over and above military service, which provision gives effect to a plan for total mobilization.

(a) Active Force. The first of the above mentioned laws classifies the obligatory military service into active and inactive (military service on leave status) services. Those serving with the active force of the army are on active service. The active force consists of two elements, viz: the professional or training cadre and the conscripts. The personnel of the professional cadre are obtained by voluntary enlistment (term of enlistment 2 to 12 years). The conscripts are inducted into the service for a period of active service of 2 years.

(b) Inactive Force. Those in the inactive force are placed in four categories, as follows:

1. The Reserve includes men liable to military service from the time they are discharged from active military service until March 31 of the year in which they complete their 35th year of age. Due to the fact that the conscription law has been changed to a 2-year period of service with the colors, this category will embrace only those men between the proper age limits who have served with the Reichswehr. Reports indicate that the year classes 1913-1910 will be drafted soon for training so as to form an active reserve.



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2. The Replacement Reserve includes all men liable to military service who have not been called upon for active service with the upper age limit to include the year in which such men reach their 35th year of age.

3. The Landwehr includes all men liable to military service who, due to age, have passed out of the two categories above, with the upper age limit to include the year in which such men become 45. There are approximately 4,250,000 men in this category, many of whom received World War training. Reports indicate that an unknown number of these will be given some additional training. It is considered that about 40 per cent of these are available for active service.

4. The Landsturm includes all men liable to military service who have passed out of the above categories due to age. Although the new National Defense Law provides that men in this category are available for call only in case of war or national emergency, reports indicate that it is planned to organize into units an unknown number of the men in this category who have not passed their 55th year of age. There are approximately 3,600,000 men between 45 and 54 years of age, and of these about 15 per cent are considered available.

(3) Labor Service Corps. The personnel of this corps consists of two elements; namely, the professional or training cadre and the conscripts. That of the training cadre is obtained by voluntary enlistment and comprises the officers and noncommissioned officers of the corps. The conscripts are obtained under the provisions of the National Defense Law of May 21, 1935. This service comes in the year immediately preceding the year in which these men are called for active service with the army. The class of 1917 is called for Labor Service duty for the current conscription year for six months' service. The strength of the corps is about 225,000.

b. Probable Rate of Development of Manpower. How many trained, armed and equipped troops Germany could put in the field on M-Day is a matter of conjecture. On September 1, 1939 the active army had a strength of 1,050,000. The training of the Nazi Party Army is being maintained. The Technical Emergency Help Corps and the Labor Service Corps would undoubtedly be able to furnish units or replacements which could be mobilized on M-Day or very shortly thereafter. It is estimated that Germany could mobilize on M-Day or within a very few days thereafter 3,000,000 trained men, and that another three million could be made available within three months. In organized units it is believed that Germany can put in the field 150 fully manned and equipped first class divisions. A maximum effort would produce 250 divisions.

c. Reserve Supplies. Definite data as to the amounts of reserve supplies is not available. During the past six years the tremendous munitions industry has been working full force so that it is reasonable to conclude that large quantities of arms and equipment have been turned out.

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d. System for Mobilization of Industry. Germany has mobilized her industry and natural resources for war on a large scale, which it is believed no country previously has ever attempted in time of peace. The ramifications of her general plan extend into so many phases of her economic fabric and are so skillfully camouflaged that it is not easy for either a foreigner or even a German to state definitely in any great public works program, where civil necessities cease and economic mobilization begins.

A bureau in the General Staff is specifically charged with industrial mobilization. This office is a common office for the Army, Navy, and the Air Force, and officers from all three arms are on duty therein.

Except for a few minor changes the German industrial mobilization system was built in imitation of the similar American system. Lists of allotments and requirements to factories are prepared in a manner quite like ours. German factories prepare their local plans.

While in general outlines of its construction the German system follows the American, the results, nevertheless, are quite different. Behind this industrial mobilization in peace stands the full power of Hitler and the organized might of the German Government. Scarcely an important economic or financial decision is taken by any member of the German cabinet without the Industrial Mobilization Section being consulted. Hitler himself maintains a vital personal interest in every phase of the preparation.

Backed by the unique centralization of governmental power accomplished by Hitler, the achievements of the industrial mobilization are visible on every hand. It is no exaggeration to say that they match in military importance the expansion of the army.

In addition to this industrial mobilization plan itself, it is planned to relocate German industry in accordance with the needs of national defense in order to render vital industries less liable to damage or destruction from enemy attacks.

Summing up, Germany in peace time is engaged in an enormous program of industrial mobilization so as to make herself self-sustaining in war.



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III. THE AIR MINISTRY.

7. Personnel.

a. Estimate of the Strength of Components. The secrecy surrounding air matters makes it difficult to compute strength figures. The best estimate obtainable lists the strength of the German Air Force as follows:

	<u>Active</u>	<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Total</u>
Flying officers	5,500	4,000	9,500
Nonflying officers	3,000	2,000	5,000
Total officers -	8,500	6,000	14,500
Cadets, pilots	1,200		1,200
Cadets, specialists	800		800
Enlisted, pilots	7,500	5,000	12,500
Enlisted, student pilots	4,000		4,000
Enlisted, student specialists	2,500		2,500
All other E. M.	135,000	30,000	165,000
Apprentices	6,000		6,000
Total cadets E. M.	157,000	35,000	192,000
Antiaircraft Officers	4,000		
Antiaircraft H.C.O.'s	16,000		
Antiaircraft Troops	103,000		
Total A. A.	123,000		
Air Signal Officers	1,000		
Air Signal H.C.O.'s	2,500		
Air Signal Troops	27,000		
Total A. S.	30,500		
<u>Types of Planes</u>	<u>Number of Planes</u>	<u>Tactical Squadrons</u>	
Pursuit (Fighter) Single Engine	2,679	78	
Fighter, Multi-Engine	524	19	
Dive Bombardment (light)	552	37	
Medium Light Bombardment	5,375	147	
Observation	1,076	39	
Patrol	925	40	
Training	3,180	80 train-	
Transport and Miscellaneous	1,125	ing fields; not	
		in identifiable	
		squadrons.	

Total of all types, June 30, 1939 15,336

360 Active  
squadrons plus  
120 reserve  
squadrons.

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There are approximately 7,000 planes of all types in the 480 identified squadrons of the German Air Force.

#### 8. Organization.

a. Commander in Chief. Field Marshal General Hermann Goering has dual capacity with the Air Forces (Luftwaffe), that of Minister of Aviation and that of Commander of the Air Forces. As Minister of Aviation he is a member of the Cabinet with the responsibility of coordinating and supervising civil air matters.

b. Air Ministry. The Air Ministry is organized into two major sections, the first directly under the Commander of Air Forces and Minister of Aviation, Goering; the second under Goering's Secretary of State for Air, Inspector General of the Air Forces, Col. Gen. Lilch. The first section is organized as follows:

(1) Naval Aviation Commander and Inspector of Naval Aviation. This officer has command of all airplanes, antiaircraft artillery, and air communications assigned to and working with the Navy. He is directly responsible to the Commanding Admiral of the Navy for operations. As Inspector of Naval Aviation he is responsible to the Commander of the Air Forces for the condition of equipment and training of personnel. He acts in an advisory capacity to the Commanding Admiral of the Navy and in addition is a liaison officer between the Commander of the Air Forces and the Commanding Admiral of the Navy.

(2) Army Aviation Commander and Inspector of Army Aviation. This officer has functions identical to those of the above officer only in this case in connection with the Army.

(3) Chief of the Minister's Office. This officer functions in an administrative capacity for Field Marshal General Goering in either his military or civil air capacities. In this office civil and military aviation matters are coordinated.

(4) Aerial Armament Commission. This is a permanent armament commission which functions directly under the Commander of the Air Forces and examines all armament problems and advises the Commander of the Air Forces thereon.

(5) The Air General Staff School. This is a special staff school that is designed to educate Air Force officers for duty with the Air Force General Staff.

(6) The Air Force General Staff. This is similar to our war plans section and exercises no command functions whatsoever. This staff is concerned with perfecting plans for the use of the Air Force in all emergencies. It contains Intelligence, Operations, Organization and Quartermaster Sections.

Note: The Commander of the Air Forces is in supreme command, only in his absence does the Deputy Commander of Air Forces or the Second Deputy take over the supreme command. There are six commands directly under the Commander of the Air Forces as follows:

- (7) The Chief of Air Fleet 1 and Commander East.
- (8) The Chief of Air Fleet 2 and Commander North.
- (9) The Chief of Air Fleet 3 and Commander West.

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At each field is stored the complete war equipment for every plane assigned to that field. When an airplane is permanently transferred, its equipment is also transferred.

In addition, there are 27 Air Parks, 23 Air Depots and 50 Air Ammunition Depots scattered throughout Germany.

The Air Parks are in reality small Branch Air Depots, located at points convenient to operating fields with a stock of spare parts and engines.

The Air Depots are large supply depots carrying in stock every article used by the Air Force except ammunition, fuel and clothing. In these air depots are stored some 5,951 airplanes and the necessary aeronautical equipment and spare parts. Fuel and ammunition are stored in dispersed storage centers, while at each airdrome there is, in the vicinity of the field, a small ammunition and small fuel storage warehouse.

d. Detailed Organization.

(1) (a) Flying Troops. In general the flying troops are organized into units similar to ours except that there appear to be no units specifically organized as attack aviation.

Pursuit and bombardment aviation are organized as follows:

	Active Planes	Reserve Planes
Staffel (squadron)	9	3
3 Staffel - one gruppe (group)	27	9
3 Gruppo - Geschwader (wing)	81	27

There appears to be no organization larger than the wing.

Observation is organized similarly up to the group but it is not organized in wings. In time of war the observation units are split into squadrons. There is only one type of aviation in the wing -- that is, pursuit and bombardment are not mixed in the same wing.

The estimated strength of the units in officers and enlisted men is as follows:

	Squadron	Group	Wing
Officers	5	18	56
Enlisted Pilots	6	18	54
Enlisted Men	100 - 125	400 - 475	1225 - 1450

Each group has a headquarters squadron of three officers and 100 men, and each wing a similar unit of 2 officers and 25 men.

In observation units practically all the pilots are enlisted and all the observers are officers, which would change the above figures somewhat.

German staffs are small and administration and procedure are simple. The staff of every German command unit is based on the principle of reducing to a minimum the number of officers and men at headquarters.

(b) Garrisons. Garrison organization closely resembles our own but staffs and administration are simplified. Civilian personnel are used to do most of the fatigue around the post. In addition, at many of the garrisons there is a station complement that would remain at the post when the ops are away.

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Building shops and hangars are new and well designed and the equipment installed therein is ample and of the latest design.

(c) Flying Equipment. Flying equipment is ample and well kept up. All units are furnished with modern planes.

(2) Antiaircraft Artillery. The antiaircraft artillery is an arm of the German Air Force and is called Flak Artillery. This name is derived from the initials of Flieger Abwehr Kanone, its full title, which means cannon for defense against fliers. In each air district there is a special Flak commander.

The antiaircraft artillery is divided into two parts: (1) that mobile part which will accompany and operate with the field armies; (2) a combination mobile and stationary part for the protection of the zone of the interior.

The mobile regiments are listed from 1 to 69 and each consists of two gun battalions and one searchlight battalion. These regiments, if fully organized, would contain 1,656 - 88mm. guns and 2,070 - 20mm. guns.

All of the 37mm. guns, which formerly were used in the light A A batteries, are to be used by the separately constituted regiments numbered 70 to 99 which are stationed in Germany for the defense of the interior. These regiments have now only one battalion.

Forty-seven of the 69 three-battalion regiments and 16 of the 30 one-battalion regiments have been identified.

The gun battalions of the three-battalion regiments consist of 3 heavy batteries (each of 4 - 88mm. and 2 - 20mm. guns), 2 light batteries (each of 12 - 20mm. guns and 4 - 60cm. searchlights) and 1 searchlight battery (9 - 150cm. searchlights and 6 sound locators).

The searchlight battalion consists of 3 batteries, each of 9 - 150cm. searchlights and 6 sound locators.

Each combat unit down to and including companies and batteries makes provision for its own protection against air attack. The detail of light and heavy machine guns within unit for antiaircraft defense is habitual.

While the German antiaircraft artillery belongs to the Air Force, it is allotted in quantities determined upon to armies. In principle, the German doctrine holds that troop units must protect themselves against air attack. Where certain fixed installations within an army or corps must be protected by antiaircraft artillery or where tactical operations demand antiaircraft defense, antiaircraft battalions are attached by armies to corps for special uses.

(3) Air Signal Service.

The Air Signal Service, making use of telephone, teletype, and radio is distributed throughout Germany and forms a complete communication net. It is organized into brigades, regiments and battalions and is estimated at approximately 30,500 troops. These units furnish all means of communication necessary to the functions of the Air Corps. Each Air Group Command, and each Air District have air signal troops which operate the communication nets of the command or district in question.

(4) Air Infantry. The German Air Force contains a so-called infantry regiment of four battalions -- the "Regiment General Goering" -- that it is believed is trained as a unit in parachute jumping and movement by transport plane. During the past year 750 of the Ju-52 transport planes have been rebuilt to carry 30 air infantry per load. Little is known of the

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results of this training or the doctrine of employment.

(5) Services. In addition to the flying, antiaircraft artillery and air signal, the air force has supply, air supervision, air engineer, and medical troops. The detailed organization of these troops is not available.

e. Second Line Forces. Although the German plan of rearmament, which is being carried out at this time, undoubtedly includes provisions for reserve Air Force formations, information as to the organization of such forces is not known.

Until recently the German Air Sport Society, directly subordinate to the Air Ministry, was the only authorized sport flying organization of Germany. In the spring of 1937 its title and status was changed and it became the National Socialist Flying Corps -- apparently a Nazi Party organization. However, it is still headed up by an officer of the Air Force, and Air Force officers are still attached to it. It is believed that this organization will ultimately form a valuable reserve for the Air Force and will in addition give preliminary training to candidates for pilot training in the Air Force itself. The strength at present is believed to be about 50,000.

9. Equipment.

a. Individual. Officers and noncommissioned officers are armed with the automatic pistol. All enlisted men (medical excepted) are armed with the rifle and bayonet.

10. Training, Efficiency, and Morale.

a. Training.

(1) Officers. The system for officer replacement in the German Air Force in general follows that of the army with certain differences due to the fact that the Air Force contains four very dissimilar arms -- the Flying, the Antiaircraft Artillery, Signal Troops and the Air Medical Corps -- each of which requires a rather different type of preliminary training for their cadets.

The training period lasts three years. All officer candidates are enlisted annually on October 1.

(2) Flying Corps. There are four cadet schools of the air arm, two located in the vicinity of Berlin, one at Dresden, and one near Munich. The total number of cadets attending annually is about 500 at each of the four schools.

The course at these schools is divided into three periods. In the first period the cadets receive fundamental military training only. In the second period he starts his flying training and air technical instruction. After qualifying as pilots the cadets take a third course at the cadet school primarily devoted to training as officers. However, during this period pilot courses are continued. Upon successful completion of the course the cadet is commissioned provided he is ratified by a vote of the faculty of the school.

(3) Antiaircraft Artillery and Signal Corps. The cadets pass the first period of their training in combat units. This period is very similar

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to that of the army covered in detail elsewhere in this estimate. This course is somewhat longer than the corresponding period of the flying officers at the cadet schools. The second period is devoted to a course at a primary flying school where the cadets are qualified as observers. The course in the third period is similar to that of the flying officer. Cadets of all branches are united at the Cadet Schools for an identical "Officer Course." The Antiaircraft School is located at Wustrow and the Air Signal School at Halle.

(4) Promotion and Examinations During the Cadet Course. Six months after admission into the Air Force the cadets (Fahnenjunker) who have the status of an enlisted man are promoted corporals, and after eight months, to sergeant. One year after starting the course the Fahnenjunker is promoted to Fahnrliche (ensign). About six months later there occurs an intermediate examination which, if passed, results in the Fahnrlich being promoted to Oberfahnrlich. At the close of the third period, the officer examinations are held. Cadets may be dropped at any time during the two-year period if they show themselves as unsuitable officer material. The promotion from Oberfahnrlich to Lieutenant follows upon successful completion of the final examination and approval by the officer of the unit in which the cadet enlisted in the case of the antiaircraft and air signal, and the faculty of the Cadet School in the case of the pilot aspirant.

(5) Selection of Enlisted Men as Officers. As in the Army, a way is provided by which exceptional soldiers lacking the educational qualifications required for normal acceptance as cadets may be given after enlistment, cadet status and trained for commission. This procedure is not the normal one. Soldiers transferred to a cadet status must not be over 25 years of age.

(6) General. German training of air cadets stresses officer training and not pilot training. Pilot training is given great importance but greater stress is placed on leadership qualities and technical capacity.

(7) Aviation Schools. In addition to the Cadet Schools mentioned above there are numerous schools at which primary and advanced flying are given, and in addition there are flying schools for specialized training in pursuit bombardment and observation, and the naval aviation flying schools in the Sea District.

(a) Academies. The advanced schools for air officers are:

Air General Staff Academy (formerly called the "Air War Academy")..... Gatow (near Berlin)

Air Engineer Academy ..... "

Advanced Air Force School ..... "

These three schools are combined into a single training center between Berlin and Potsdam. Students consist of officers of about 30 years of age and of the rank of captain.

All students must satisfactorily complete the course of training at the Advanced Air Force School before becoming eligible to attend the Air General Staff Academy or Engineer Academy.

The course of training at the Advanced Air Force School lasts six months, at the expiration of which the faculty decides whether the student officer is qualified for the Engineer Academy or the General Staff Academy, or whether he should be returned to his organization without further



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training. It is believed that approximately two-thirds of the students go to the General Staff School and one-third to the Engineer Academy, with only a few returned to organizations without further training.

The purpose of the Air General Staff Academy is to train younger officers for the higher commands of the Air Force and for Staff duties. It approximates a combination of our Air Corps Tactical School and the Command and General Staff School. The course lasts two years with an enrollment of about 100 students yearly.

The Air Engineer Academy has for its purpose the training of officer personnel to supervise the development of aircraft and accessories.

The course approximates that of our Engineering School at Wright Field. It lasts two years.

These officers do not become members of the Engineer Corps of the Air Force who actually do much of the designing of equipment, but will command and supervise only.

(b) In addition to the Advanced Schools, Cadet Schools, Air Signal School and Antiaircraft School, there are many flying schools for enlisted pilots, a Meteorological School, a Sport School, an Aerial Photography School, etc.

(c) Recruit Training. Each soldier of the Air Force, upon being inducted into service, goes to an Ersatz Battalion, of which there are at least one in each corps area. Here he is given his basic training as a soldier and in addition certain preliminary mechanical training in Air Force specialties. During this period there are selected from the recruits those especially qualified for pilot training.

From this Ersatz Battalion the recruit is sent directly to the units or in certain cases to large mechanics' training schools.

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These schools, of which there are two and probably more, take the men from the flying units or directly from the Ersatz Battalions and give them a very thorough specialized course. These schools are modern, well equipped, and the instruction most thorough. Between five and six thousand mechanics are trained yearly.

(2) Training of Reserve Officers. Candidates for reserve commission in the Air Force are given the following training before being commissioned:

First Reserve Year:

Flying Personnel (aviators and observers) ..... 4 weeks  
Antiaircraft Artillery Personnel ..... 6 "

Second Reserve Year:

Flying Personnel ..... 4 "  
Antiaircraft Artillery Personnel ..... 4 "

Third Reserve Year:

Flying Personnel ..... 4 "  
Antiaircraft Personnel ..... 6 "

At the end of the third reserve drill, those candidates who have successfully passed the reserve officers' test are commissioned as lieutenants of reserve.

In general, all reserve officers upon being commissioned as such are required to take the following additional training:

Flying Personnel - Within the course of eight years, four periods of four weeks each.

Antiaircraft Personnel - Within the course of four years (exceptional cases six years), two periods, one of six weeks and the other of four weeks' duration.

b. Efficiency. The Air Force is the new member of the German Armed Forces. Military and naval aviation were prohibited by the Treaty of Versailles and it was not until the advent of the Nazi in 1933 that these clauses were violated and the first steps taken toward its organization. Since then, based upon World War experience and careful study of the air forces of the principal powers, the rearmament in the air has been proceeding with great rapidity. It is believed that the system of organization, training and equipment that has been developed has made the German Air Force the equal of the best of the foreign forces.

c. Morale. As is the case with the other components of the Armed Forces, the morale of the Air Force is high.

# 11. Mobilization Plans.

## a. Method of Recruitment.

(1) Active Officers. Most of the higher ranking officers of the Air Force have been transferred from the Officers' Corps of the Army and the Navy. The system of selecting officer replacements for the Air Force is unknown, although it is believed to be basically the same as that used in the army.

(2) Reserve Officers. The system of procurement of reserve officers is, in general, the same as that used in the army.



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(3) Men. The enlisted personnel for the active Air Force is recruited by voluntary enlistment. Term of service: for flying personnel, 1 1/2 years; for other personnel, 2 years.

Information is not available concerning the enlisted reserve corps.

12. Aircraft Industry. No exact figures on the production capacity or the output of this industry are possible. There is no longer any doubt but that the results are truly astounding. It is estimated that during the last year Germany produced over 10 thousand military and commercial airplanes. In the case of emergency during the first month, after M day, about 1,450 airplanes complete could be produced. The monthly production rate at the end of six months, after M day, is estimated to be 4,000 per month and at the end of one year, at 6,000 per month.

### 13. Theory of Combat.

The German air war doctrine is predicated on the possession of an independent Air Force composed of four major branches: the operating air squadrons, the antiaircraft defense, the air signal service, and the air infantry (parachute troops).

The operating air squadrons are outfitted with the following types using the German terminology for the various categories of airplanes involved:

1. Long range reconnaissance
2. Attack-reconnaissance
3. Medium attack (fast bombers)
4. Heavy attack (night bombers)
5. Dive bombers
6. Fast pursuit (single seaters)
7. Heavy pursuit, so-called destroyers (multi-place and multi-engine)
8. Liaison and special service

The antiaircraft defense incorporates the following:

1. Heavy AA (8.8 cm horizontal range up to 16,600 yds.)
2. Light AA (3.7 cm horizontal range up to 7,874 yds.)
3. Light AA (2 cm horizontal range up to 5,465 yds.)
4. Searchlights and listening devices
5. Motorized equipment for AA
6. Air barrages (balloons and kites)

7. Airplane movement information service

The air signal service comprises all means of communication necessary to the operations of the Air Force.

The air infantry or parachute troops are the air "landing force" for purposes of preparatory service, occupation, or surprise attacks in conjunction with field troops in the absence of strong enemy air defenses.

The Air Force is prepared and designed to provide army and navy cooperation units. For army cooperation, reconnaissance, artillery observation, captive balloons (and Focke Achgelis helicopter), and ground attack types are provided. For naval purposes, catapult scout seaplanes are provided for each capital ship, battleships and cruisers. In addition the two new aircraft carriers will probably be outfitted with pursuit, scout, and light (dive) bombers.

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squadrons. Coastal defense, employing the patrol types and medium range scouts and torpedo seaplanes, is a function of the Air Force, but in close cooperation with the Navy and naval operations.

The tactical formations used by the squadrons are the same as those used by the U.S. Army and Navy. Both stepped-up and stepped-down formations are employed. A section, or flight, is generally considered the smallest tactical unit, except for reconnaissance and patrol. Ordinarily the group, consisting of 3 squadrons and a group flight - total 30 airplanes - is the largest tactical formation employed. Open formations are more commonly used than closed, except in pursuit squadrons. As a result of experiences gained in Spain, a two-plane pursuit flight is commonly used for combat and, it is believed, has been accepted as standard.

#### 14. Strength.

a. Personnel. The strength of the Navy at this time is estimated at about 3,800 officers and 52,500 enlisted men. As new ships go into commission, this strength will tend to increase.

b. Ships. Total effective completed tonnage: 173,267 tons; total building or appropriated for: 276,069 tons (excluding mine-sweepers and smaller craft).

##### (1) In Commission:

- 2 Battleships (26,000 tons each, 28 cm guns, 27 knots, completed 1938)
- 3 Armored Ships (10,000 tons each, 28 cm guns, 26 knots, post-war construction)
- 2 Old Battleships (obsolete, pre-war construction, 28 cm short guns - for training purposes only)
- 6 Light Cruisers (post-war construction, 15 cm guns)
- 18 Destroyers (new, 12.7 cm guns)
- 16 Torpedo Boats (4 obsolete; 12 post-war construction)
- 43 Submarines (5 of 712 to 740 tons; 13 of 500 to 517 tons; 25 of 250 tons each; all new)
- 10 Escort Vessels (new, fast mine-sweepers and anti-submarine vessels)
- 130 Assorted Vessels (mine-sweepers, tenders, patrol boats, training ships, motor torpedo-boats, etc.)

##### (2) Ships Under Construction or Appropriated for in 1938:

- 3 Battleships (35,000 tons each, 38 cm guns, laid down in 1936, 1937 and probably 1938, respectively)
- 2 Aircraft Carriers (19,250 tons each, 15 cm guns, 40 planes each, 32 knots; both laid down 1936, 1 launched)

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- 3 Heavy Cruisers (10,000 tons each, 20.3 cm guns, 32 knots, 2 due for commissioning; 1 launched)
- 6 Light Cruisers (2 of 10,000 tons each, 15 cm guns, laid down 1936; 4 of 7,000 tons each, 15 cm guns, to be laid down)
- 12 Destroyers (1,811 tons each, 12.7 cm guns, laid down and launched)
- 30 Torpedo-Boats (600 tons each, 10.5 cm guns, laid down and appropriated for)
- 28 Submarines (10 of 740 tons each; 11 of 517 tons; 7 of 250 tons; laid down and launched)
- 70 Assorted Vessels (Mine-sweepers, tenders, patrol boats, training ships, motor torpedo-boats, etc.)

14. Organization.

a. At the head of the Supreme Command of the Navy (German Navy Department), one of the three component arms of the Wehrmacht (Armed Forces), is a flag officer with the rank of General-Admiral whose duties correspond to those of our Secretary of the Navy and Chief of Naval Operations combined. He is appointed by and directly responsible to the Leader and Reich Chancellor Adolf Hitler.

b. Navy Department. The Supreme Command of the Navy at Berlin is divided into the following sections for purposes of Command, administration and supply:

- Staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy
- Naval Personnel Office (recently expanded into two sections)
- Naval Command Office (Operations, Organization, Intelligence, Training)
- Naval Legal and Publications Section
- General Naval Office
- Naval Armament Office
- Naval Administration Office
- Naval Construction Office

c. Fleet Organization and Distribution. Forces afloat are divided into ships serving in the Fleet, and those assigned to training establishments and naval stations. The Fleet is based evenly on Kiel and Wilhelmshaven (the main Baltic and North Sea bases respectively), but operates as a unit. It comprises a battleship division, a Scouting Force (including cruisers, destroyers, torpedo-boats and motor torpedo-boats) and a Submarine Force. The Fleet as a whole generally remains in home waters as there are no foreign stations at present. Training ships show the flag abroad periodically, while a small naval detachment has been maintained in Spanish waters ever since the Spanish civil war broke out.

d. Naval Air Force. Air forces operating with the Navy are still a part of the separate unified Air Force. The Navy is agitating for its own naval air arm.



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e. Naval Shore Establishments. The Navy Department is responsible for the defense of the entire coastline of Germany, including river deltas and off-lying islands. Naval shore units man and operate all fortifications and other defense measures connected with coast defense. Naval coast defense is grouped with the other naval shore activities, such as training and experimental establishments, under the Commands of the North Sea and Baltic Naval Stations.

15. Training, Efficiency and Morale are all high.

#### V. GEOGRAPHIC

Geographic Information Affecting the Strategy of the Country. During the past two years Germany's geographic position has been considerably strengthened by the acquisition of Austria and Czechoslovakia. Italy, Yugoslavia and Hungary have become her neighbors. With the Alps protecting her frontiers on the south, she is strategically situated astride the upper valley of the Danube. Along the eastern boundary there exist no natural defenses, but the fortifications constructed recently both in East Prussia and along the eastern frontier afford ample protection against attacks from the east. With the completion of the fortifications in the west, from the Swiss to the Dutch border, and with the protection afforded by the Rhine River, Germany considers her western frontier impregnable. The North Sea and Baltic Sea, together with her fleet and coastal fortifications, guarantee the safety of her northern border.

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS.

The present day Germany is under the absolute dictatorship of the Nazi Party leader, Adolf Hitler. The Nazi conceptions are primarily nationalistic in character and direct Germany's policies toward full restoration of the Reich to a leading position among world powers, militarily, economically, and politically.

Having overcome all organized internal opposition, and having regained equality with other nations through scrapping of the Versailles and Locarno Treaties -- thus regaining full sovereignty over her own territory -- Germany is concentrating on making her army and air force one of the greatest military forces in the world, and on making the nation as economically self-sufficient as is possible. Within the past two years Germany has engaged in an extensive fortification of her borders that when completed in certain cases will make her almost impregnable to attack and in every case seriously delay any enemy. Her military position as a result of these fortifications has been tremendously strengthened. Many indications are that the ultimate expansion of the nation's frontiers to include contiguous eastern and southeastern territory rich in necessary raw materials is Germany's long-range goal.

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Whether this expansion will bring this territory actually into the Reich or only into her economic orbit is a matter of conjecture.

Time alone can show what Hitler's foreign policies will be when his army, navy and air force reach their projected strengths. Being subject to Hitler's policy of opportunism and to the rapidity with which changes occur in the present-day European situation, they are likely to change overnight.

NOTE: For additional detailed information on this subject, see Combat Information Digests on file in the Military Intelligence Division.



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